

# News Release

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## **A PICTURE OF CHANGE - NEW £20K COMPETITION TO FIND ENGLAND'S TOP COMMUNITY SPACE**

A nation-wide search to uncover the country's most inspired transformation of a neighbourhood space was launched today by Phil Hope, Minister at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

The new competition - 'A Picture of Change' - will reward local groups who have had a huge impact in making neighbourhoods cleaner, safer and greener. Community groups who have led change in their area can enter the competition to win up to £6000 to help improve or maintain their work.

Launching the competition, Phil Hope, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Office said:

"The Government is committed to creating cleaner, safer, greener communities and the community plays a key role in making this happen. Local action is hugely effective in tackling local problems - change being driven by people who know what they want and what is needed most.

"From renovating green spaces and play areas to making the street more attractive with art or tidy-up operations, we want to see the change you've made and hear your story. It's not necessarily how large or small your project is, it's about the difference it has made to the way people feel about their area.

" 'A Picture of Change' will show other community groups what can be achieved and we will be calling on them to kick start their own local action. We can all play a role in transforming where we live and I hope this competition will inspire others to join

our Cleaner Safer Greener Communities drive to make all of our communities places where people want to live, work and play."

Regeneration charity Groundwork will assist the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister with the running of 'A Picture of Change' with sponsorship from Barclays.

Welcoming the announcement, Tony Hawkhead, Chief Executive of Groundwork, added:

“Often we celebrate the big changes that are made to our towns and cities – the major new developments or high profile architecture. What this is about is showcasing the thousands of local initiatives that are driven and often carried out by local people in villages, towns and cities across the country. Many of these changes may be small in comparison but they often have a huge impact on the way people feel about their neighbourhood. We want to gather together as many of these inspiring stories as we can so that we can continue showing people that change is possible.”

The top three entries from each English region will be chosen with a first prize of £1000. The regional winners will go through to a national final with a further £5000 up for grabs. The national winner will also benefit from professional advice from an expert who will come and work with the project. Entries will be showcased at the Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit in January and on [www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk](http://www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk)

To enter, local groups need to tell the story of their achievements in words and pictures, demonstrating what has changed in your local park or space, street or housing estate, town or city centre and the impact it had made on the people that live there. Entrants are encouraged to be creative and entertaining to highlight the fabulous impacts of the work they have undertaken. Community groups can find full details and enter via [www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk](http://www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk)

## **Notes to Editors**

1. The competition will be open to applications from the 10 November and close on 15th December. Entries can be made on-line through [www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk](http://www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk) or by calling 0121 237 5780.
2. The total prize will be £20,750. The national winner will receive £5000. Regional prizes will be £1,000 for first place, £500 for second place and £250 for third.
3. The competition is open to local groups in England who have been working voluntarily to make their neighbourhoods cleaner, safer or greener. For example youth groups, schools, Friends of Parks, communities who have worked with Warden, NDC or Home Zone schemes etc. To be eligible for a prize, a copy of the group's constitution must be submitted or, the name of an organisation (eg the council, a local charity) that would look after the money on your behalf – an 'accountable body'. Further information and entry forms can be found at [www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk](http://www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk).
4. The regional winners will be announced in January 2005 and the national finalists will be announced at the Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit on the February 1<sup>st</sup> 2005.
5. The Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit, 31 January - 2 February 2005, Manchester, will be the largest event of its kind in the UK. We are expecting 2000 delegates from the UK, Europe and the wider world. It will set a vision for the future and create opportunities for both developing and sharing best practice as well as provide a platform to work with experts from the public, voluntary and private sectors. Visit [www.odpm.gov.uk/summit](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/summit) for updated information about the Summit, including registration, exhibition, promotion and sponsorship opportunities. Delegates and exhibitors should register early to save disappointment.
6. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister leads the Government's drive to create cleaner, safer, greener communities. Phil Hope is Parliamentary under Secretary at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. For more information go to: [www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk](http://www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk) or [www.odpm.gov.uk](http://www.odpm.gov.uk) Alternatively contact Matthew Wells at ODPM, 020 7944 4613, [matthew.wells@odpm.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.wells@odpm.gsi.gov.uk)
7. Groundwork is a federation of Trusts in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, each working with their partners to improve the quality of the local environment, the lives of local people and the success of local businesses in areas in need of investment and support. Groundwork's vision is of a society made up of sustainable communities which are vibrant, healthy and safe, which respect the local and global environment and where individuals and enterprise prosper. [www.groundwork.org.uk](http://www.groundwork.org.uk). For more information please contact Graham Duxbury at Groundwork, 0121 237 3650, [gduxbury@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:gduxbury@groundwork.org.uk)
8. Barclays SiteSavers is a national partnership between Barclays PLC and Groundwork. Launched in 1996, Barclays SiteSavers helps communities transform derelict and neglected land into dynamic spaces for fun, education, relaxation and play. The programme is supported by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and managed by Groundwork with support from BTCV and The Wildlife Trusts. Since the programme was launched more than 800 projects have been completed, involving more than 60,000 volunteers of all ages. More than 500 hectares of land has been improved to create community gardens, parks, safe play areas and new wildlife habitats.

**Press Enquires: 020 7944 8915 Out of Hours: 020 7944 5945**

**E-mail: [press.office@odpm.gov.uk](mailto:press.office@odpm.gov.uk)**

**Public Enquiries: 020 7944 4400**  
**Office of the Deputy Prime Minister Website: <http://www.odpm.gov.uk>**